

# Got Gaps?

As winter approaches, there is change all around us. But not all of that change is happening outside. As your heating system begins to run regularly during the colder winter months, the air in your home is drying out. This also means your hardwood floor is drying out and you may begin to see gaps between the planks. Here is a guide to help keep your floor comfortable and stable during the winter months.

Wood is a product of nature and naturally retains moisture. As the surrounding environment changes, and air temperature and humidity levels drop during the winter months, your hardwood also loses moisture and begins to shrink. This shrinking causes gaps to appear in your floor. When these gaps appear, the key thing to remember is that this is a natural occurrence and not a flaw or defect in the wood flooring material. Once the air temperatures and humidity levels begin to rise in the spring and summer, these gaps will eventually close or minimize. While these gaps may present an unsightly appearance, it is recommended that you **DO NOT** fill them. When the wood expands back during the spring and summer it will push the filler out, and in some cases can cause damage to the floor!

These gaps can all be prevented by installing a humidification system that runs in conjunction with your heating system. Remember keeping the relative humidity in your home between 35% - 55% all season long will help keep your floor stable.

